GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:311
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000
SEIZURE OF HEROIN
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs officials had arrested some persons in the last week of January, 2000 at the Indira Gandhi International Airport and seized heroin from them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nationality of the persons arrested;

(d) the source of the heroin; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check such activities of drug peddlars?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)
(a) to (c): Yes. On 28.1.2000, the customs officers at the Indira Gandhi International Airport intercepted 11 Nepalese National travelling to Bangkok - Five were to travel by All Nippon Airways flight NH-926 and Six (including onewoman) by Thai Airlines flight TG-316. All the Eleven passengers after interrogation admitted to have swallowed heroin filled capsules. After initial recovery of 372 capsules yielding 3.2 kgs. of heroin, the 11 Nepalese Nationals were admitted to RML Hospital on orders of ACMM, New Delhi.They were discharged on 4.2.2000 after complete recovery. In all, the 11 Nepalese evacuated 1029 capsules yielding 8.820 kgs. of heroin. All the 11 persons were arrested under the NDPS Act, 1985.In follow-up the Air Customs Preventive Officers seized 874 gms. of heroin from the hotel room of another Nepalese national Shri Gita Lama Tamang at HotelYak House, Majnu Ka Tilla, Delhi on 30.1.2000 and he was also placed under arrest.

In further follow-up, Shri Anil Kumar Tamang, who in the preliminary investigations was identified as one of the main organisers in Pakistan, was intercepted on 31.1.2000 when he arrived from Lahore at IGI Airport, New Delhi by Pakistan International flight PK-814. 18 gms. of heroin packed in two capsules concealed by Shri Anil Tamang in his rectum was recovered from him and he was also placed under arrest.

(d) : Initial investigations have revealed that the heroin was sourced from Pakistan and is of Southwest Asian origin.

(e) : All the field formations and intelligence units of Customs & Central Excise (including DRI) as well as unitsunder Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau are alertto guard against narcotics smuggling/ drug peddling. Effective steps are being taken to collect intelligence in this regard and a close watch is being maintained on sensitive border areas, International Airports, Sea ports, ICDs, Attari Railand other sensitive areas, to thwart any attempt of smuggling of narcotics. At Delhi IGI Airport Sniffer Dogs are also deployed by Customs to detect drug smuggling and a special Narcotic Cell constituted for concerted efforts against drug trafficking. Deterrent penal action - by launching prosecution as provided under the NDPS Act, 1985 is initiated against the Drug Traffickers.